

AIR

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References: (1) LINC 1020 (3) GUAT 307
(2) GUAT 225 (4) LINC 1641

1. As we reported in our first cable (GUAT225), the Agrarian Nationalist Party was never more than press speculation at any time and at present it appears even the local press is rapidly losing interest in and whatever enthusiasm formerly existed for the formation of such a party. Thus, it appears the efforts of Francisco Fernando FERNANDEZ Foncea to form such a party will have little if any success.
2. In compliance with the request made in LINC 1641 to amplify our previous cable and to state whether or not the "Independents" are actually Communist, we submit the following. First of all, those FAR Deputies who have set themselves up as Independents are the same five Deputies who were expelled from the party some time previously. For the benefit of the reader their names are set forth below:

Francisco Fernando FERNANDEZ Foncea
Alvaro Hugo SALGUERO
José Felipe DARDON
Mario PAIZ Novales
Salvador CHICAS Carrillo
3. An orderly "unity" Congress of the FAR was held 26-28 March 1954, and during one of the sessions a half-hearted, vague invitation was extended to the five above-named Deputies to return to the fold of the FAR. As could be expected, the invitation went unnoticed by the five as they were absent from the Congress and, according to ESODIC, would have refused the invitation even though they were present.
4. Each of the five above-named Deputies has at one time or other clashed with the Communists here over matters pertaining to each of their personal political ambitions; however, none has ever openly clashed with the Communists on any question involving political ideology. For that reason it is not possible to state that any of them is anti- or pro-Communist. It is the consus of the political officers here that each is personally ambitious and each is casting about at present for something which will ensure him a comfortable living and a political future.

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5. As an example of a personal clash with the Communists here, we cite the case of one of the Deputies, Alvaro Hugo SALGUERO, who after having been accused of being an "intellectual author" of a forged letter by a special Congressional Investigating Committee accused the Communist Party of sabotaging his own 1952-53 campaign for Congress as well as those of Sres. GARCIA Cruz and ALVAREZ Borges.
6. Another example of a personal clash with the Communists is the case of Francisco Fernando FERNANDEZ Fonca who after exuberantly declaring that all of the political parties were destined to be submerged in the Communist movement immediately became the subject of an attack by Tribuna Popular who without actually naming him referred to him as one of the "irresponsible elements" currently comprising the political scene locally. The Communists obviously were referring to FERNANDEZ' ill-timed outburst made on the floor of Congress when completely under the influence of alcohol. To put it mildly, he was roaring drunk when he made his statement to the effect all political parties were destined to be submerged in the Communist movement.

His good friend is one of the other expelled PAR deputies, José Felipe DARDON. The latter rushed to the assistance of FERNANDEZ and as a result drew the Communist wrath himself. The Communists publicly accused DARDON of attempting to "shake down" local auto parts dealers for several thousands of dollars. Unless the dealers donated to his coffers, DARDON threatened to rush a bill through Congress which would put a definite limitation on the amount of profit any auto parts dealer might realize. The Communists refused to support DARDON in his request for a motion which would exonerate him from the blackmail charges.

7. The two remaining PAR Deputies who were expelled are Mario PAIZ Novales and Salvador CHICAS Carillo. Both were run out of the PAR for opposing the candidacy of Marco Antonio FRANCO Chacon for President of Congress. This incident touched off a Communist issue due to the fact the Communists, along with the rest of the National Democratic Front, supported FRANCO Chacon. The reason both PAIZ Novales and CHICAS Carillo opposed FRANCO's candidacy was to frustrate the Communists.
8. From the foregoing, it would appear none of the expelled PAR Deputies has much love in his heart personally for the Communists. Whether or not any of the five has any deep-rooted political ideology for opposing the Communists or supporting them in international issues is unknown.
9. Currently there are approximately fifteen dissident Deputies who are now calling themselves "Independents." Of that number, five are the above-described Deputies from the PAR, six dissidents are

from the PRG and three or four from the Renovación Nacional. Jaime DIAZ Rozzotto would like to bring the dissidents together in one party but to date has had little success due to the principal factor he commands (and each of the dissident Deputies as well) too little a following. We have been told by ESPOUSER and by ESCROW that each Deputy is personally ambitious. Each is casting about to see where he can place his influence to the best advantage personally to him. Files of ODACID indicate that none of the expelled Deputies is above accepting graft. To date we have been unable to ascertain whether or not the expellees have any relations with the CNCG and D/

10. Those Deputies who have been expelled from the PAR still attend Congressional sessions. The fact they are now calling themselves Independents apparently has no affect on their income and they undoubtedly still receive their regular salary from the government. We have no contact with the expellees as yet but are attempting to find a means to approach them although we are not too confident such will be feasible.
11. At the risk of repeating but for background information to the reader we reiterate our previous comment to the effect that those five suspended Deputies named in our GUAT 225 were reinstated during the PAR convention and one of them, José David MAZARIEGOS, was named Secretary of Municipal Affairs of the party. Also, some progress was made during the convention toward restoring party harmony. Julio ESTRADA de la Hoz was re-elected Secretary General of the party and Humberto GONZALEZ Juarez and Alfonso MARTINEZ were elected Secretary of Organization and Member of the Political Committee respectively.

Cyrus E. Burnette

7 April 1954

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